

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

### METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC TASK FOCUS SWAPPING DURING BROWSER WAIT TIME

5 A method and system in a computer within a computer-network for automatically swapping application tasks running within the computer when access from the computer to a remote network site is delayed. Initially, a link from a local network site to a remote network site utilizing a communications application while multi-tasking applications are simultaneously running at the local network site is initiated. Data <sup>retrieval</sup> is thereafter retrieved from the remote network site <sup>is then initiated</sup> in response to initiating the link. Focus is then automatically switched from the communications application to a multi-tasking application simultaneously running at the local network site, in response to <sup>initiation of the data retrieval</sup> ~~data being retrieved from~~ <sup>the remote network site by the communications application.</sup> Focus is thereafter switched back to the communications application from the multi-tasking application, in response to the data being retrieved. In addition, focus may be automatically switched back to the communications application from the multi-tasking application after expiration of a predetermined time period. Distinction is made between time-consuming links and immediate links. A determination is made whether the link invoked is a time-consuming link or an immediate link. If the link is a time-consuming link, focus is automatically switched to a multi-tasking application simultaneously running at the network site, in response to data being retrieved, only if the link is a time-consuming link. However, if the link is an immediate link, focus remains within the communications application retrieving data from the remote network site. The communications application may be implemented as a browser application.